

REMARKS

The Examiner has required an election under 35 U.S.C. § 121 of one of the following inventions:

- I. Claims 1-3 and 14-16, drawn to a protein, a reagent, a fusion protein or a drug comprising SEQ ID NOS: 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 18 or 24;
- II. Claims 4-12, 17-20, drawn to a gene encoding SEQ ID NOS: 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 18 or 24, vectors, a transformant and a method of producing;
- III. Claim 13, drawn to a method of identifying a site in extracellular matrix at which the protein comprising SEQ ID NOS: 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 18 or 24 deposits, comprising reacting said protein with extracellular matrix;
- IV. Claims 21-23, drawn to a method of recovering a molecule of interest, comprising allowing the fusion protein comprising SEQ ID NOS: 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 18 or 24 to deposit into extracellular matrix and collecting the molecule of interest; and
- V. Claims 24-27, drawn to a method of regulating deposition activity onto extracellular matrix, comprising reacting a fragment within the amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 2 comprising an active center region and a positive regulation region and/or a fragment within the amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 2 comprising an active center region and a negative regulation region with extracellular matrix.

In response, Applicant hereby elects with traverse the invention of Group I, which is drawn to a protein, a reagent, a fusion protein or a drug.

In the Office Action, the Examiner also has required election of a single disclosed species if Group I to IV is elected:

- a) SEQ ID NO: 6;
- b) SEQ ID NO: 8;
- c) SEQ ID NO: 10;
- d) SEQ ID NO: 12;
- e) SEQ ID NO: 14;
- f) SEQ ID NO: 18; or
- g) SEQ ID NO: 24.

In response, Applicant hereby elects, with traverse, SEQ ID NO: 24. Claims 1, 2 and 14-16 encompass the elected species.

Attorneys for Applicant retain the right to petition from the restriction requirement under 37 CFR § 1.144.

With respect to the Examiner's comment on the invention of Group I and U.S. Patent 6,812,339, Applicant respectfully disagrees and reserves the right to address the reference in an office action on the merits. Applicant believes that there is a typographical error in the last paragraph on page 2 of the Restriction Requirement. The 448 amino acid reference (SEQ ID NO: 10130) is present in U.S. Patent 6,812,339 and not in the '562 patent.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully requests that the above-made amendments be entered and made of record in the instant application. An early allowance is earnestly requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure